

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Air Quality Awareness Week, April 27 to May 1

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) joins EPA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Weather Service in designating April 27 to May 1 as Air Quality Awareness Week to educate people about air pollution and what they can do to protect their health and improve air quality. The week marks the beginning of the summertime smog season and highlights the importance of being aware of local air quality conditions and of taking steps to protect your health, if necessary.

“During a typical summer, New Hampshire experiences a number of days when the air is unhealthy due to elevated levels of either ozone (better known as smog) or fine particle pollution,” said DES Commissioner Thomas Burack. “It is our responsibility to monitor outdoor air quality and make sure this information is readily available to the public.”

DES collects continuous information on air quality conditions at over 15 air monitoring stations throughout the state. These monitoring stations are operated by DES, UNH and the Appalachian Mountain Club. The information is used to forecast daily air quality conditions and is available all day and every day at www.airquality.nh.gov.

In a proclamation declaring April 27 to May 1 as Air Quality Awareness Week in the State of New Hampshire, Governor John Lynch encourages all residents and businesses to take actions to minimize air pollution and protect our clean air and environment. These actions include keeping car and boat engines tuned up, carpooling or using public transit, walking or biking, consolidating trips and errands, using environmentally safe paints and cleaning products, and conserving electricity.

“Our air quality has been improving over the past few years,” Burack noted. “We can continue to keep our air clean and address climate change at the same time by taking simple steps like changing to ENERGY STAR light bulbs, reducing vehicle idling, and keeping tires properly inflated. Collectively, these actions will have a significant impact on saving energy and reducing air pollution.”

For more information on air quality, to arrange a visit to an air monitoring station, or to find out more about what you can do to keep the air clean, visit www.des.nh.gov (search for air quality), or call (603) 271-1370.

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